

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /061 W

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R 031455Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 540

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 27

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ML, PBOR, ML, UN

SUBJ: MALI'S PRESIDENT PROMISES RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS

1. IN HIS NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO THE NATION, MALI'S PRESIDENT, COLONEL MOUSSA TRAORE, PROMISED THAT 1975 WOULD BE CONSECRATED TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION INVOLVING RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUOTE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION DEMOCRATICALLY STRUCTURED INCLUDING ALL LOYAL CITIZENS. UNQUOTE. FUNCTION OF NEW ORGANIZATION IS TO ELABORATE BASIC NATIONAL POLICY.

2. IN SAME MESSAGE TRAORE CONGRATULATED MILITARY COMMITTEE AND GOVERNMENT FOR: (A) EFFICIENT HANDLING DONOR DROUGHT ASSISTANCE, (B) HOLDING REFERENDUM WHICH RATIFIED NEW CONSITITUTION PROMISING EVENTUAL ELECTIONS FOR THE COUNTRY, (C) DRAFTING OF NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN, AND (D) RECENTLY-HELD NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MALUCAJ WOO Q..

3. PRESIDENT TRAORE EXPRESSED CONFICITION THAT MALIANS WOULD APPRECIATE PROFOUND SIGNIFICANCE OF MILITARY COMMITTEE'S DECISION TO PROCEED WITH ESTABLISHMENT
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NEW DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND FREEING POLITICAL

PRISONERS AT PRECISE MOMENT WHEN QUOTE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND THE ARMY HAVE JUST PROVIDED ELOQUENT PROOF OF THEIR FIRM DETERMINATION TO DEFEND AT ANY SACRIFICE EVERY SQUARE CENTIMETER OF OUR DEAR COUNTRY AND THE RIGHTS OF OUR PEOPLE. UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: SHOULD BE NOTED THAT: (A) PRESIDENT PROMISED TO RELEASE SOME BUT DID NOT SAY EXPLICITLY ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES, (B) RATIFIED CONSTITUTION PROHIBITS FORMER ADHERENTS OF MODIBO KEITA'S PARTY FROM PARTICIPATING IN POLITICS WHICH EFFECTIVELY PREVENTS RELEASED DETAINEES FROM JOINING PROMISED POLICY-FORMULATING BODY, AND (C) NO MASS ORGANIZATION IN MALI IS PERMITTED TO EXIST EXCEPT AS VEHICLE FOR PUBLICIZING POLICIES LAID DOWN BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. TRAORE'S REAFFIRMATION TO QUOTE DEFEND EVERY SQUARE CENTIMETER OF OUR DEAR COUNTRY UNQUOTE DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT CURRENT BORDER DISPUTE WITH UPPER VOLTA.
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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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